

TITLE: Revision of Alternative Route Definition

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board approves the following revision to the definition of alternative teacher preparation program:

The current definition on Part IV, page 84, of the State Approval of Teacher Education Manual:

“Alternate Route to State Licensure Programs. Post baccalaureate programs designed for individuals who did not prepare as educators during their undergraduate studies. These programs, which usually lead to a unit’s recommendation for a state license, accommodate the schedules of adults and recognize their earlier academic preparation and life experiences. In some instances, candidates may be employed as educators while enrolled. Examples include MAT programs, programs that operate in professional development schools, and Troops to Teachers programs. They are sometimes called non-traditional programs.”

will be replaced with the following definition, adapted from the US Department of Education definition of “alternative route”:

“Alternative Route means pathways to licensure that allow the establishment and operation of state approved teacher preparation programs in the State designed to recruit, prepare and license talented individuals who hold at least a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and may have careers in fields other than education. Alternative route programs have the following characteristics, in addition to standard features such as demonstration of subject-matter mastery, and high-quality instruction in pedagogy and in addressing the needs of all students in the classroom including English language learners and student with disabilities:

- (a) Can be provided by various types of qualified providers, including both institutions of higher education and other providers operating independently from institutions of higher education;
- (b) are selective in accepting candidates, using a rigorous screening process. It is recommended that this process includes passing tests, interviews, and demonstrated mastery of content in the field in which licensure is sought (e.g. Praxis II content tests or an academic major in the content field);
- (c) provide intensive, supervised, school-based experiences with structured ongoing support such as effective mentoring and coaching;

- (d) significantly limit the amount of coursework required or have options to test out of courses or allow candidates to demonstrate equivalent experience;
- (e) hold high performance standards for completion; and
- (f) upon completion, recommend the same level of licensure that traditional preparation programs award upon completion.”

The Hawaii Department of Education and Hawaii Professional Education Units with State Approved Teacher Education Programs will be notified within thirty days of this change in definition.

Submitted by: Janice Shishido

Referred to: Teacher Education Committee